

Docket No. AUS920010382US1

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method of port sharing among a plurality of processes, comprising:

- 5 receiving first data through a shared port destined for a first process of the plurality of processes;
mapping the first data to a first port, different from the shared port, associated with the first process;
and
10 forwarding the first data to the first port, wherein the first process monitors the first port for data.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

- receiving second data through the shared port destined for a second process of the plurality of
15 processes;
mapping the second data to a second port, different from the shared port and the first port, associated with the second process; and
forwarding the second data to the second port,
20 wherein the second process monitor the second port for data.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein mapping the first data to the first port includes reading a header of the data to identify a port and address of the first process,
25 wherein the port is the shared port and the address identifies a domain of the first process.

Docket No. AUS920010382US1

4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
looking up the port and address of the first process
in a mapping table; and
identifying the first port based on the looking up
5 of the port and address of the first process in the
mapping table.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein forwarding the first
data to the first port includes repackaging the data to
include a new header identifying the first port and the
10 address of the first process.

6. A method of port sharing among a plurality of
processes, comprising:
receiving first data from a first process of the
plurality of processes, the first data identifying a
15 first port associated with the first process;
mapping the first data from the first port to a
shared port, the shared port being different from the
first port; and
transmitting the first data to a receiving device
20 using the shared port.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:
receiving second data from a second process of the
plurality of processes, the second data identifying a
second port, different from the first port and the shared
25 port, associated with the second process;
mapping the second data from the second port to the
shared port; and
transmitting the second data to a receiving device
using the shared port.

Docket No. AUS920010382US1

8. The method of claim 6, wherein mapping the first data from the first port to the shared port includes reading a header of the data to identify a port and address of the first process, wherein the port is the
5 first port and the address identifies a domain of the first process.
9. The method of claim 8, further comprising:
looking up the port and address of the first process in a mapping table; and
10 identifying the shared port based on the looking up of the port and address of the first process in the mapping table.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein transmitting the first data to the receiving device includes repackaging
15 the data to include a new header identifying the shared port and the address of the first process.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein the method is implemented in an operating system of a computing device.
12. The method of claim 6, wherein the method is
20 implemented in an operating system of a computing device.
13. An apparatus for port sharing among a plurality of processes, comprising:
means for receiving first data through a shared port destined for a first process of the plurality of
25 processes;

Docket No. AUS920010382US1

means for mapping the first data to a first port, different from the shared port, associated with the first process; and

5 means for forwarding the first data to the first port, wherein the first process monitors the first port for data.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:

10 means for receiving second data through the shared port destined for a second process of the plurality of processes;

means for mapping the second data to a second port, different from the shared port and the first port, associated with the second process; and

15 means for forwarding the second data to the second port, wherein the second process monitor the second port for data.

15. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the means for mapping the first data to the first port includes means for reading a header of the data to identify a port and address of the first process, wherein the port is the shared port and the address identifies a domain of the first process.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising:

25 means for looking up the port and address of the first process in a mapping table; and

means for identifying the first port based on the looking up of the port and address of the first process in the mapping table.

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Docket No. AUS920010382US1

17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the means for forwarding the first data to the first port includes means for repackaging the data to include a new header identifying the first port and the address of the first
5 process.

18. An apparatus for port sharing among a plurality of processes, comprising:

means for receiving first data from a first process of the plurality of processes, the first data identifying
10 a first port associated with the first process;

means for mapping the first data from the first port to a shared port, the shared port being different from the first port; and

means for transmitting the first data to a receiving
15 device using the shared port.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising:

means for receiving second data from a second process of the plurality of processes, the second data identifying a second port, different from the first port
20 and the shared port, associated with the second process;

means for mapping the second data from the second port to the shared port; and

means for transmitting the second data to a receiving device using the shared port.

25 20. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the means for mapping the first data from the first port to the shared port includes means for reading a header of the data to

US 9,200,103 B2

Docket No. AUS920010382US1

identify a port and address of the first process, wherein the port is the first port and the address identifies a domain of the first process.

21. The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising:

5 means for looking up the port and address of the first process in a mapping table; and

means for identifying the shared port based on the looking up of the port and address of the first process in the mapping table.

10 22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the means for transmitting the first data to the receiving device includes means for repackaging the data to include a new header identifying the shared port and the address of the first process.

15 23. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for port sharing among a plurality of processes, comprising:

20 first instructions for receiving first data through a shared port destined for a first process of the plurality of processes;

second instructions for mapping the first data to a first port, different from the shared port, associated with the first process; and

25 third instructions for forwarding the first data to the first port, wherein the first process monitors the first port for data.

Docket No. AUS920010382US1

24. The computer program product of claim 23, further comprising:

fourth instructions for receiving second data through the shared port destined for a second process of the plurality of processes;

fifth instructions for mapping the second data to a second port, different from the shared port and the first port, associated with the second process; and

sixth instructions for forwarding the second data to the second port, wherein the second process monitor the second port for data.

25. The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the second instructions for mapping the first data to the first port include instructions for reading a header of the data to identify a port and address of the first process, wherein the port is the shared port and the address identifies a domain of the first process.

26. The computer program product of claim 25, further comprising:

fourth instructions for looking up the port and address of the first process in a mapping table; and

fifth instructions for identifying the first port based on the looking up of the port and address of the first process in the mapping table.

27. The computer program product of claim 26, wherein the third instructions for forwarding the first data to the first port includes instructions for repackaging the data to include a new header identifying the first port and the address of the first process.

Docket No. AUS920010382US1

28. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for port sharing among a plurality of processes, comprising:

5 first instructions for receiving first data from a first process of the plurality of processes, the first data identifying a first port associated with the first process;

10 second instructions for mapping the first data from the first port to a shared port, the shared port being different from the first port; and

third instructions for transmitting the first data to a receiving device using the shared port.

29. The computer program product of claim 28, further comprising:

15 fourth instructions for receiving second data from a second process of the plurality of processes, the second data identifying a second port, different from the first port and the shared port, associated with the second process;

20 fifth instructions for mapping the second data from the second port to the shared port; and

sixth instructions for transmitting the second data to a receiving device using the shared port.

30 30. The computer program product of claim 28, wherein the second instructions for mapping the first data from the first port to the shared port include instructions for reading a header of the data to identify a port and address of the first process, wherein the port is the first port and the address identifies a domain of the first process.

Docket No. AUS920010382US1

31. The computer program product of claim 30, further comprising:

fourth instructions for looking up the port and address of the first process in a mapping table; and

- 5 fifth instructions for identifying the shared port based on the looking up of the port and address of the first process in the mapping table.

32. The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the third instructions for transmitting the first data to the receiving device include instructions for repackaging the data to include a new header identifying the shared port and the address of the first process.

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0920010382US1